



Subject:

Module 9: The rise and rise of Electronic Dance Music: *House music all night long*

Overarching Topic:			
Why is this topic being studied at this time?	The unit acts as a climax to the whole KS3 Music journey. Students combine their accumulated knowledge and skills developed over the past three years to play or compose and record a popular EDM track. In order to do this, students will be introduced to some of the advanced features of Garageband, including quantising, step-input of drum beats using the piano roll, editing audio samples and designing/tweaking synthesiser sounds.		
How does it fit into the wider subject curriculum?	During this unit, pupils engage in learning tasks that extend their ability to critically analyse the structure of songs and recreate the sound of existing electronic dance music tracks, beginning with the classic 4-to-the-floor bass drum beat, adding layers of synthesiser chords and a melody using the minor scale- a new concept for Year 9. Various subgenres of EDM, such as techno, trance and dubstep will be explored through listening and comparison tasks further expanding the musical palate of students and their critical appraising skills. During the course of this unit, students will also sit an end of year test which incorporates retrieval of learning from all topics studied across the Key Stage. To support this, as with all the previous modules, the fundamentals are continued to be taught, practiced and retrieved regularly through class activities and homework.		
	Essential	Core	Ambitious
The Big Questions (What questions will students be able to answer upon mastery of the topic?)	What is a 4-to-the-floor bass drum pattern? How do you sequence a drum kit part? What is sequencing? How do you use the D minor scale? What are the 4 chords of a typical 4 chord song? When and where did EDM music emerge from? Can I record basic parts in time with a metronome?	What are the notes of the D minor and G minor scales? How do you create an effective dance drum beat? What is quantising and how can it be used in my track? What are the different types of synthesiser (pad, lead, drums) and how do they function musically in the piece? What is a typical EDM style structure and how do I achieve it in my work? What is the difference between a Verse and a Chorus and how can I create these in my song? How can a simple yet effective melody be created? Can I effectively and musically use Garageband's pre-existing vocal loops? What are some examples of sub-genres of EDM?	Can I fluently read and apply music notation? Have I mastered the use of the piano roll to sequence and edit notes? How does the bridge create contrast? How can the synthesiser be used to add extra layers for a thicker texture? What is meant by the term <i>sampling</i> and how is sampling used in pop music? How can I create and edit my own samples for use in my track? What are the key identifying features of 3 differing styles of EDM – Trance, Techno and Dubstep?
The Key Skills/ Techniques	The sophistication and application of skills will become more advanced as students' progress through the essential, core and ambitious knowledge		
	Skill/Technique	How will this skill be developed?	
	Sequencing drum beats on Garageband	Weekly independent/group practice. Composition once performing is mastered	
	Adding chords and melody by choosing appropriate synth sounds and recreating		
	Sampling and editing samples using Garageband		
	Theory: minor scale (Dm or Gm), standard 4 chords sequence	Listening, appraising tasks and notation exercises	